"ALL THE NEWS YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW"

FREE

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

APRIL 1982

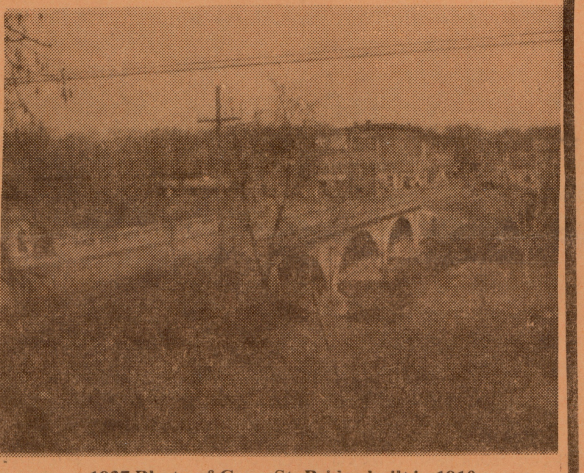
Depot Town Association
Next regular meeting
Thursday, April 15 7:30 p.m.
in DTA Caboose, 400 Market Place

Depot Town Retail Merchants
Next regular meeting
Tuesday, April 13 7:30 p.m.
in DTA Caboose

CROSS STREET BRIDGE IS FALLING DOWN

Since the Eastside of Ypsilanti seceded from the Westside in the 1850's, rivalries and disagreements often end in the idle threat of one side or the other suggesting the demolition of the bridge which connects the two. It now appears that just such a drastic measure might actually happen — without either side seceding from the other. My fair ladies, Cross Street Bridge is falling down.

City Community Services Director, Richard Willer, reports that "Sometime in early January a car struck the concrete railing on the Cross Street Bridge, knocking the ornamental pillars into the Huron River. In addition, the sidewalk over the bridge has a hole about 10 inches in diameter." Willer's department temporarily patched the hole and scheduled spring repairs by the Department of Public Works.



1937 Photo of Cross St. Bridge built in 1910.

The bridge was then inspected by the City's consulting engineers, McDonnel Proudfoot Associates, who found more serious damage that is likely to continue. They agree that a simple patch job won't do the trick. Willer's solution, he notes, is only a temporary one. Mayor Pro-Tem Nathalie Edmunds has already noted that it is an ugly one. Willer concedes that the installation of a guard rail and a chain link fence, through temporary, will be unpopular with citizens, since the bridge is "at the center of activities during the Heritage Festival," but has nonetheless recommended to City Council that repair work begin in April.

The consulting engineers have noted severely cracked sidewalk "corbels" and are doubtful that they are functioning as supports for the projecting section of the sidewalk and concrete railing. They estimate repairs at $120,000 or higher, and their guess at the cost for a new two-lane bridge with sidewalks is $600,000.

The 1976 Depot Town Plan by architect Dick Macias included a design replacing the green painted pipe railing at the mouth of the bridge, keeping the Italianate influence of the 19th century commercial buildings.

It was also recommended that the railing on the walkway to Frog Island be *sympatico*. Perhaps the temporary or permanent bridge railing might reflect that design suggestion to enhance this major entry to Depot Town.

There is no doubt that many will question the aesthetic value of the guard rail and chain link design that is proposed at this time.

Infill to the existing architectural environment must be handled in a careful, thoughtful, and sensitive manner.

RAG REPORT

It's over!

Put away the snow shovels, ice scrapers, down jackets and all other shelters against the C-c-cold War. Spring is here and we can all finally breath a big sigh of relief - without actually seeing it!

If you prefer a small town to a downtown, then there aren't many places more exciting than Depot Town during the Spring and Summer months. Bordered by Riverside Park, Frog Island and the Huron River on one side and the Michigan Central Railroad on the other, Depot Towners share an intensified tranquility as energies are focused on the restorations of our buildings and the celebrations around them.

This Spring and Summer will see the continuation of the monthly Winter Jazz Series, a May Day Celebration, the re-vamped Boomer Days, outdoor concerts and dances, and the storybook three day Heritage Festival to name but a few.

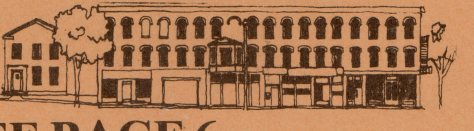
The best celebrations occur, however, when progress is made towards our goal of Depot Town's renovation. John Pappas' Foundry, The Follett House, Depot Exchange, Sidetrack, The Newell Block and others have plans for exterior facade improvements this Summer, as well as improvements to Riverside Park and the Market area.

Activities such as the concerts and festivals are intended to let folks know that we're here, but just as importantly to encourage them to share the excitement of what we're doing on the block.

As recently as the early 1970's, Depot Town was the black sheep of Ypsilanti's family of fine neighborhoods - but primarily as a result of Bev and Don Shankwiler's outstanding and daring undertaking of the thorough restoration of the Artrain Building, Depot Towners were able to look at the area and realize potentials. In 1975 the Depot Town Association was established, and through hard work, *heart* work, and determination, Depot Town is again a healthy, viable commercial/residential area.

There is still a long way to go. We are now at about the half way point of the 1976 Depot Town Plan for Restoration, and right on schedule.

You can help support Depot Town - by joining the DTA (10 bucks will get you a 1-year associate membership), patronizing the shops, or just come on down to relax. The "people watching" is second to none! Are you watching, or are you getting watched?



DEPOT GETS ITS RESTAURANT SEE PAGE 6

RAGTIME

• Neighbors always look forward to the wonderfully decorated windows that change monthly at Hon's Flowers & Fancies. Passers-by can always tell the month or season with a quick glance.

• John Waite has done it again — for that special occasion, place one Perrier ice cube in a 16 oz. drinking glass. Then gently squeeze the liquid from a 5th of Wild Turkey.

• The return of spring brings images of birds and trees, sunshine and . . . parking tickets. The "Parking Control Officer" sharpens his pencils all winter and plans to come back each spring to write those tickets if you're over the 2-hour limit.

• Phase 1 of the Riverside Park renovation is scheduled for completion well before August's Heritage Festival. This will include new pathways and a unique octagon shaped deck out over the Huron River.

• Do yourself a favor this spring and visit the Ypsilanti Historical Museum and archives at 220 N. Huron. A fantastic collection of Ypsilanti memorabilia in the beautifully restored Ross House fills the museum, while the archives is literally bursting with photographs, news clippings, and pertinent information regarding our resplendant history dating back to the early 1800's. Museum hours are 2-4 Fri., Sat., & Sun.; the Archives (side door) are 9-12 Mon.-Fri. Weekend guides are available and there is no charge.

• Rosemary's Corner and Depot Mailbox opened for business in their new locations at 13-15 E. Cross right on schedule in mid-March.

• The Historic East Side Association invites you to read their monthly newsletter, which pops up about the same time as this rag. Take a leisurely walk through the close-knit neighborhood - where the trees still outnumber the cars.

• What do Jim Bradley of J&J Plastercraft, Paul Palen of Black Bart's Pizza, Joe Wizauer and Rick Schultz of Hon's Florists, and Sally Richie of Miller's Ice Cream all have in common? April Birthdays! Hope they're happy!

• May Day Celebration activities include a kite flying contest on Frog Island and dancing around the May Pole for kids. . . . And Everything Nice has the details.

• The Michigan Chapter of the Hudson Essex Terraplane Club - of which Jack Miller is president - will be meeting at the Freight House for their April 25th meeting. Hopefully the members will drive up in their finest Hudson classics.

• Looking for a unique place for your club meetings or candlelight dinner? Consider renting the D.T.A. Caboose for only $15.00. Tom Dodd has details, de schedule, and de key.

• There's the Depot Town Association (D.T.A.), Ypsilanti Community Development Authority (Y.C.D.A.), and, among others, the Ypsilanti Arts Council (Y.A.C.), and the Ford Lake Sail Club (F.L.S.C.). Now the Depot Town/Ypsilanti Farmers' Market has announced a committee to study the "Effective Individual Efforts of Improving Orchards." That's right. The E.I.E.I.O.

Rag staff unwinds between issues by performing for friends.

RIVER ART WORKS
"We serve the arts."
Photo Restoration
Gallery of Local Artists
Workshops
Professional Matting and Framing
482-8785
50 E. Cross, Ypsilanti

APPLE ANNIE
Vintage Fashions & Accessories for Men and Women
Jim Mac Donald's ANTIQUES
Buy and Sell
Antique Furniture
Finished and Rough
29 E. Cross
Ypsilanti, Mich. 48197
(313) 481-0555
Located in Ypsilanti's Historic Depot Town

Olde Towne Coin & Gold
We Buy Silver and Gold
18 E. CROSS STREET
YPSILANTI, MI 48197
(313) 483-6155

BOOMER DAYS ON RIGHT TRACK

Several of this neighborhood's biggest bums, a.k.a. the Boomer Days Committee, assembled at River Art Works on Sunday, March 21st. The 1st meeting was set up to pitch ideas and map out plans and recommendations for this summer's re-vamped (re-*tramped?*) Boomer Days activities.

The Committee agreed that the weekend of July 9-11 would be the best time for the 3rd Annual "Tramp Tribute" as it falls between the last concert of the Winter Jazz Series and the colossal August Heritage Festival.

Some of the planned activities will include square dancing at the Hobo Hoedown, a Bum's Rush, a hobo fashion show, an extensive tramp art exhibit, Mulligan Stew, sidewalk sales, and of course, the coronation of the Hobo King and Queen.

To end the weekend, all hoboes and rail tramps will camp out at the Hobo Jungle (Frog Island the rest of the year), telling tall "tales of the rails" around the bonfire. Also featured will be the dramatic "Depot Dreams" walk-a mile long exhibit of past, present and future renderings of the Depot and other highlights of the historical district. The exhibit will stretch from the Depot and down Huron St., winding up at City Hall.

B & D RETAIL
PLUMBING & HEATING
AIR CONDITIONING EQUIPMENT SALES AND SERVICE
• STEM REPLACEMENT & FAUCET REPAIR • SEWER CLEANING
WATER SOFTENERS - SALES & SERVICE
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM
— VANITIES • MARBLE TOPS
OPEN MON.-FRI. 8A.M. TO 5P.M. SAT. 9A.M. TO 2P.M.
487-1510
13 E. CROSS • YPSILANTI
IN DEPOT TOWN, ACROSS FROM CITY BODY SHOP
yellow pages

Jacqueline's Boutique
gently used women's clothes
25 E. Cross St. 483-8150

There's always room for a few more bums to work on Boomer Days. If you're interested, bum a dime and call 483-6925.

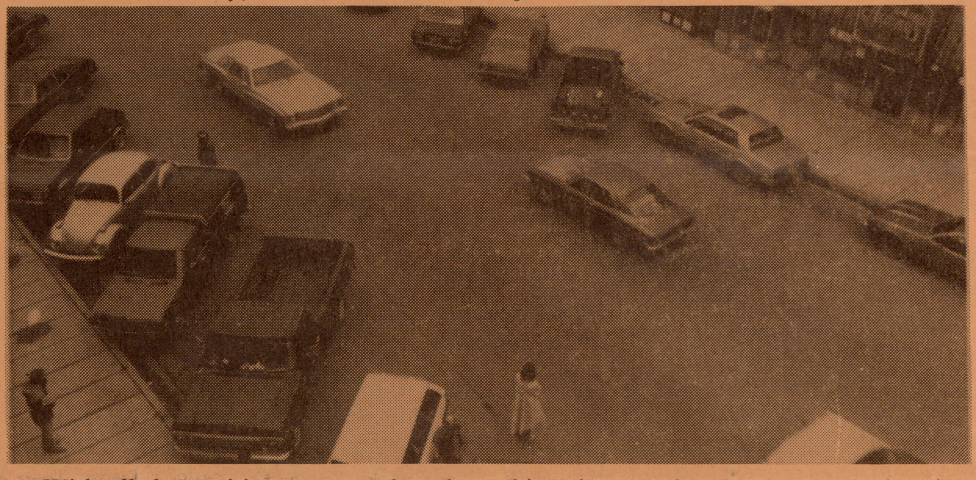
NEW SLANTS ON ANGLE PARKING

A new slant in on street parking is hopefully in Depot Town's near future, as Depot Town merchants and property owners actively campaign for angle parking on E. Cross Street. On street parking is tremendously beneficial to the success of a smaller commercial district (W. Cross is stifled with no on-street parking), and it is obvious that angle parking will increase Depot Town's on-street parking by at least one-third in addition to adding to the historical preservation of an area dependent - as it has been since the 1830's - on the success of its commercial district.

Since the first Hudson Motorcar rolled out of Miller Motor Sales in 1909, Depot Town consumers angle parked until the 1950's, when it was replaced with horizontal parking.

The accompanying photo was "posed for" on Sunday, March 21st during the early evening hours. Note the two cars patronizing Aubree's, and the increase in spaces and convenience are obvious.

Several nearby 19th Century communities, including Marshall, Ludington and Holland, have returned to angle parking and have found it to be beneficial to the business community, as well as the historical preservation.



With all the positive aspects of angle parking, letters of endorsement, and petitions totaling over 1,000 signatures of people who park and shop in Depot Town, representatives from Merchants Association appeared in front of the City Traffic Advisory Board on Tuesday, March 30th.

The Traffic Advisory Board is a group of people who listen to characters like us, and then make recommendations to the City Manager, who has the last say. After listening to the presentation, they said that state law prohibits angle parking on major streets and that two thirds of maintenance monies would be lost - a valid point, however vague as to how or why.

The board then went on to point out one bogus signature on petitions of over 1,000, and also referred to the parking lot they "gave" us - the gravel lot east of Frog Island behind the Caboose. Gosh, we thought we were an asset, not a headache.

The Historical Commission also acts as advisor to the City Manager in such matters, and the Depot Town Merchants will meet with them at a later date with letters recommending angle parking from local *politicos*.

The State, if they see fit, may also issue a waiver to allow this practical, historically significant change.

MARKET RAMP COMPLETED

Nearly two and a half years after the City opened the Depot Town Freight House to the Farmers' Market and other events, the handicapped members of our community finally have access to the facility along with their non-wheeled neighbors.

Building owners and renovators have marveled at how quick the City has been to suggest compliance to handicapped access codes in other district developments and wonder how the City, itself, can operate on such a much more relaxed schedule.

After Eastsiders volunteered designs, labor and materials, Acting City Manager, Joe Charlton marshalled City forces to complete the project in time for Spring, 1982. Talk about "Official"; one of the several planning meetings included the Acting Manager, the Fire Inspector, the Community Services Director, a representative of the Department of Public Works, a City Councilmember, the Building Inspector and the Farmers' Market manager. We doubt the Mackinac Bridge received as much attention and expertise. Their best move may have been to give the job to the DPW which complete the job with great dispatch, as usual.

HOT "FUNDS" IN THE SUMMERTIME

There is little doubt that Ronald "The bucks stop here" Reagan's budget cuts have put the skids on the federal grant programs involving facade improvements and other related upgrading of our cities. However, Ypsilanti is proposing a matching funds program at the city level.

Well ...

This program, which has yet to receive final approval, will be a matching funds, low interest loan. The applicant would be responsible for coming up with the 1st 50% of the total project cost, and the City would then loan the applicant the 2nd 50% at 5% interest. While other programs of this type that ran out of money on a state level before they trickled down to Depot Town required applicants to put up dollar amounts in the area of $50,000 (just for facade improvements), this city level loan requires a very realistic minimum of $2,500 to a maximum match of $15,000. One loan is to be made available per eligible storefront, the maximum length of each loan being 10 years (at 5%).

The monies are to be used specifically for the following purposes in order of priorities:

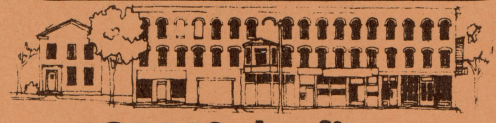
- Facade improvements
- Energy conservation
- Code improvements

Architectural services of up to 5% of the total project cost will be eligible.

Thanks to the negligence of the City and former building owners, Depot Town was virtually ignored in the 1950's when the "modern" aluminum and steel - expensive to remove - facades were installed on buildings throughout Ypsilanti.

In order to qualify for the matching grant program, you must be a property owner and/or business owner with gross annual sales under $1,000,000. Chain stores are not eligible, and most areas of the historic district are eligible.

Councilman Pete Murdock, one of the major movers behind the program, invited your questions.



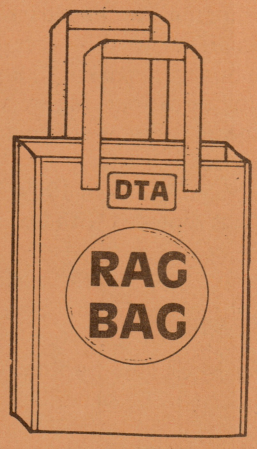
FORBES the finest

PROFESSIONAL DRY CLEANING
DEPOT TOWN:
13 E. Cross at the bridge
482-8691

• River Art Works, 50 E. Cross, has slashed the prices on pre-made frames for the month of April. Sizes range from 18 x 24", 24 x 36", and 30 x 39". Greatly reduced to $12.50, $15.00, and $20.00, these selected frames can also be custom cut and re-assembled to size for an additional $5.00 charge.

• Smart shoppers will do well by looking for their spring finery in Depot Town's recycled clothing shops; "Apple Annie's", . . .And Everything Nice", and "Jacqueline's Boutique" located in adjoining buildings 25-29 E. Cross.

• Hon's Flowers and Fancies are offering daffodils at 10 for $2.00 for as long as they can get them to you at that price.



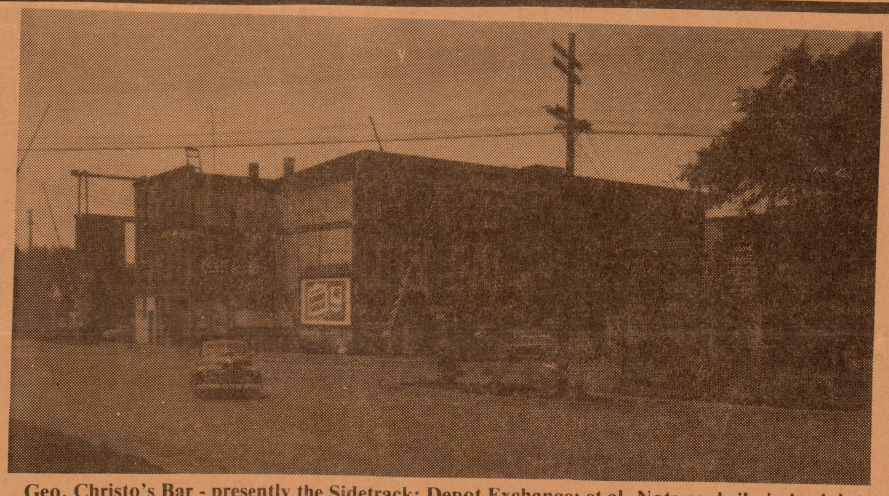
A guide to unique items and special sales in Depot Town Shops.

• Rag Bag's special recommendations for the palate include stuffed potato skins at Aubree's Saloon, onion cheddar soup at the Sidetrack, and what is by now the infamous breakfast special at the Old Town Restaurant.

• Black Bart's Pizza says the booths are in place and everything's ready to go for table service in addition to the present pick-up and delivery. The appropriate permits should be approved any day now.

• Crystal Images, the stained and hand blown glass studio at 10 E. Cross is offering a "Figurine of the Month" series. The first of these collectable limited edition blown glass animals will be issued May 1st.

IKE'S DEPOT TOWN
BARBER SHOP
IKE REDNOUR - RED BEVINS
unisex hairstyles
by
Judy Carroll
WALK-IN or CALL FOR APPT.
40 E. Cross, Ypsilanti
483-6300



Geo. Christo's Bar - presently the Sidetrack; Depot Exchange; et al. Note coal silo in back lot and signal house in foreground. 1953

GREAT TRAIN RACE OFF AND RUNNING

What is 6.2 miles long, is both male and female, young and old, and has over 1,000 legs? It's the 2nd Annual Depot Town "Great Train Race," shaping up to be the finest foot race in the area!

This year's race will be sponsored by O & W, Inc., the "spirited" folks who provide all the beer and wine at the monthly Winter Jazz Series. The offer of their sponsorship will help make this a first-class race, with over 500 runners expected to participate.

This year's G.T.R. will be off and running Sunday, August 29th during the 1982 Heritage Festival. To jog your memory, the race will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Farmers' Market, wind down Forest to Huron River Dr., Geddes to Clark Rd., and back to the Market area - hopefully ahead of Sunday's 1st scheduled train at 9:15.

Entry forms will be available soon, and further information is available from Renee' Hochradel and Gary McKeever.

Old Town
RESTAURANT
home-cooked
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Specials
in historic depot town
Ypsilanti

DEPOT EXCHANGE
54 E. Cross St. ANTIQUES, Buy & sell 482-1780

THE HEALTH EMPORIUM
To Your Good Health
for Your Nutritional Needs
485-2711 19 East Cross

J & J Plaster
Craft Studio
21 E. Cross Street
Learn a new hobby - no firing necessary
PLAQUES — STATUES — LAMPS

TREASURE-SHOP
34 E. Cross
Depot-Town
Antiques
Used Furniture
Collectables
buy and sell---consignment

JAZZ SERIES NOTES

• More than 200 people were turned away at the door at the Jim Dapogny-Mishehavin performance in March and the most heard comment other than disappointment was that they'd come earlier next time. Capacity is limited to 707 and ticket takers keep numbers current each month.

• Reservations are already coming in for the June 12th all-day Jazz event on Frog Island. WEMU reports 15 ticket requests by phone from the first on-the-air announcement of the concert.

• A welcome addition to the "munchies" available at the concerts is pizza by the slice from Depot Town's Black Bart's Pizza. Just the thing for those late hour hunger pangs.

• As the weather improves, the large loading doors surrounding the Freight House will be left open, enabling tables to be placed around the deck facing the stage. Meanwhile, these unlocked doors need only to be pushed up in an emergency, and signs will be hung stating so.

• Participation in this exciting activity is not limited to a few volunteers. Simply show up at four in the afternoon, and Greg Hochradel or John Waite will find you a job.

• Perhaps one of the finest features of the whole series is the fact that guests felt that they were being taken care of. Every beer handed over the bars was accompanied by a friendly word (dollar?). Most folks just don't expect to go to a concert and be greeted at the door by friendly neighbors and have another chance to say goodbye to an informal receiving line at the end of the evening.

• The remaining concerts are as follows:

April 10 . . . . . Boogie Woogie Red and The Alberta Adams Blues Band
May 8 . . . Ragtime Charlie and Sisters Kate, The Cakewalkin' Band, Armstrong and Bagan, and more.
June 12 . . . . . Frog Island Festival

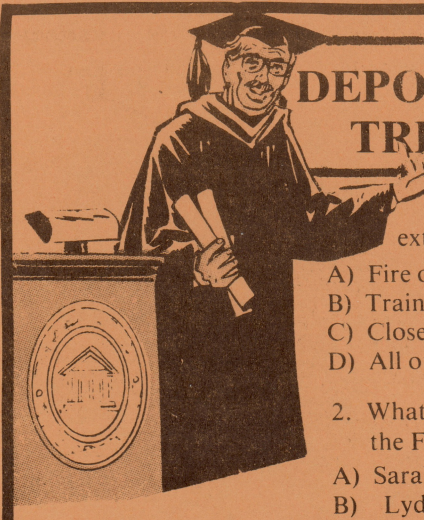
SIGNS OF SPRING

• Depot Exchange Antiques has added a handsome new sign of gold letters on a black background. The black and gold sign was most popular around the turn of the century, and early examples of these hand painted signs have been found promoting everything from drugstores and dentists to depots and dance halls.

• Miller's Ice Cream Parlour is now sporting spotlights on their traditional logo. Also just found is a neon sign with the Miller's logo that was made in the 1940's.

• Speaking of neon, Aubree's Saloon has added 4 neons to their windows, beautifully picking up the tones of the new awnings.

• Charismart Gifts at 312 N. River calls attention to their storefront in the Millworks Building with a recently added sign, while Jacqueline's Boutique retains a turn of the century flavor with a sidewalk signboard calling attention to the gently used clothing and accessories.



DEPOT TOWN COLLEGE OF TRIVIAL KNOWLEDGE

1. Which of the following causes resulted in extensive damage to the Depot and in what year?
   A) Fire on 3rd floor in 1910
   B) Train wreck in 1939
   C) Closed and boarded up 1955
   D) All of the above

2. What famous actor/performer drew thousands to the Follett House Hotel (19 E. Cross) in 1876?
   A) Sarah Bernhardt in "Camille"
   B) Lydia Thompson "The Mother of Burlesque"
   C) General Tom Thumb with P.T. Barnum
   D) Child actor Ronald Reagan

3. The empty lot next to the "Sidetrack" once boasted what type of business, and what destroyed it?
   A) Cabinet Maker; fire
   B) Tobacco Shop; train derailment
   C) Blacksmith Shop; lightning/fire
   D) Opera House; A *very* high "C"

4. Which Depot Town building was quickly converted to a military barracks during the Civil War?
   A) Freight House
   B) Newell Block (42 E. Cross)
   C) Thompson Building (404 N. River)
   D) Millworks Building (312 N. River)

Answers:
1. D; 2. C; 3. B and 4. C

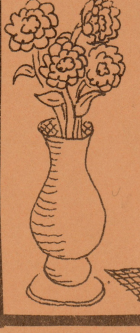
SALOON
Aubree's

HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

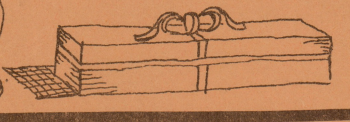
Burgers-Booze-Billards

Miller's
SINCE 1896
ICE CREAM
42 E. Cross

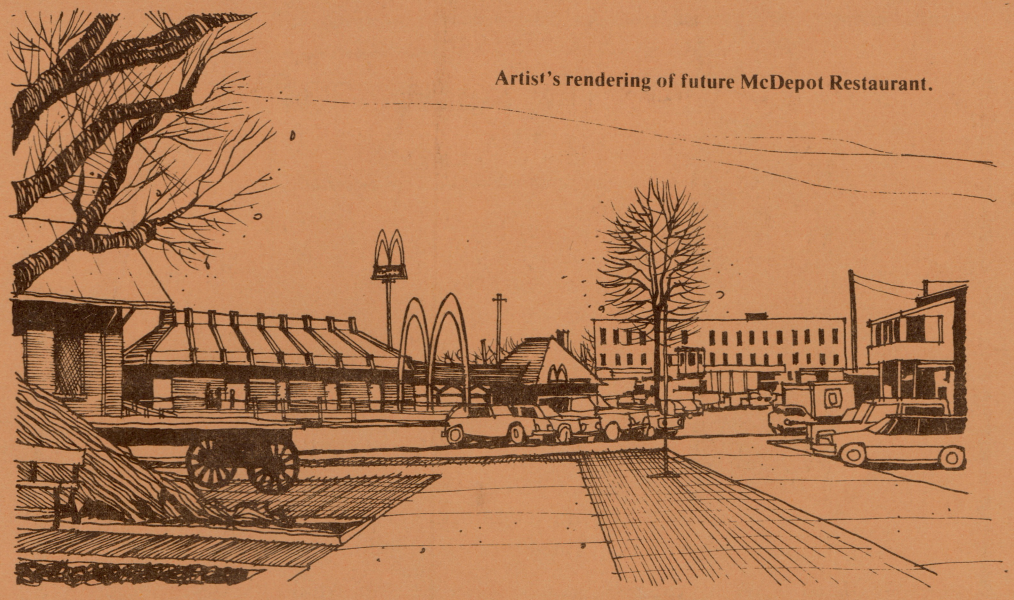
HON'S FLOWERS AND GIFTS



46 E. Cross
482-2124



COUPON
$2.00
$2.00 OFF any large 2 item or more pizza.
One coupon per pizza.
BLACK BARTS
483·4555
FAST, FREE DELIVERY
COUPON



Artist's rendering of future McDepot Restaurant.

WE'VE GOT OUR RESTAURANT!

After years of speculation, Ray Kroc has announced from his Waikiki office the opening of the 3,000th McDonald's Hamburgers, to be built in the renovated M.C.R.R. Ypsilanti Depot.

"We've been looking into a Depot Town location for years," says Kroc. "Our golden arches should fit right in with the 19th Century architecture. Dealing with the City of Ypsilanti was a pleasure."

Kroc first inquired about the Depot two years ago in a letter to then City Manager, Steve Shutt. "Shutt never answered my letters or returned my phone calls. Nobody ever knew where he was." Kroc tried again last month. In mid-March, Kroc arrived in Ypsilanti to meet with Mayor George Goodman, City Manager Van Whaler, Nat Edmunds and Jane Byrd of the Historic Commission, and Depot Task Force Chairman John Waite.

"The Edmunds were gracious enough to put Mrs. Kroc, myself, and all the little Krocs up for the weekend in their motor home in the driveway."

After a 48-hour, closed-door meeting at Ypsilanti's "Your Motel," the conditions were agreed upon and the deal was sealed.

A few of those conditions follow:

1. The "golden arches" are to be gilted.
2. The arches are to extend over the tracks "to lend unique character."
3. City officials eat free and receive McDonaldland hats.
4. No angle parking.
5. The railroad station is to be referred to as the "McDepot."

Total cash estimates for the project are "over 1 billion cold." Completion date is April Fool's Day. What a crock!

SIDETRACK
• GOOD FOOD
• GOOD DRINKS
• GOOD TIMES
56 E. CROSS * YPSILANTI, MI.
483-1035

AEROBICS CLASS DEVELOPS

Linda Lemke invites everybody to join her Aerobics Exersize class, starting Saturday, April 3rd in the Farmers' Market Building. The 6-week class will meet at 2:00 p.m. for 6 consecutive Saturdays and the total cost is a nominal $9.00 for the entire program. There is a lot of room in the building so enrollment is practically unlimited. Aerobi-cists are welcome to join at any time through the program. Call Linda at 485-8865, or come on by any Saturday between 1:30 and 2:00.

Let's see, 6 weeks takes us to the middle of May, just about when the beaches open . . .

SPRING CLEAN-UP

With the "Rag" hitting the streets the same weekend of the clean-up, there isn't much time to get word out on this year's annual Depot Town Spring Clean-up, so here goes:

ThefifthannualDepotTownSpring Clean-upwillbeheldonSunday,April4th at1:00p.m.Allvolunteersareaskedto meetattheDepotwithbrooms,rakesand otherappropriatetools.Helpusspruce uptheneighborhoodafteralong,dungy winter.Joinus! ...*Phew!*

Crystal Images Art Glass Studio
Blown Glass – Stained Glass – Bent Glass
Heirloom Crystal Restoration
10 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

depot town
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, MI 48197